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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **JUDGE GRANTS PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BLOCKING THE DEEPWATER DRILLING MORATORIUM**

(NEW ORLEANS, LA)--- Honorable Judge Martin Feldman, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, today granted a preliminary injunction blocking the moratorium on deepwater drilling set forth by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The injunction will prohibit the federal government from enforcing the six month moratorium on deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

On Sunday, June 20, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction. The state requested that the court order the removal of the moratorium on deepwater drilling on the outer continental shelf off the coast of Louisiana, stating that the drilling moratorium imposed by the defendants will only compound the State's problems, but effectively turn an environmental disaster into an economic catastrophe for the state, its citizens, and many local and family businesses.

Judge Feldman agreed with the plaintiffs and the State and in his order granting injunction states,

"The effect on employment, jobs, loss of domestic energy supplies caused by the moratorium as the plaintiffs (and other suppliers, and the rigs themselves) lose business, and the movement of the rigs to other sites around the world will clearly ripple throughout the economy in this region."

Attorney General Buddy Caldwell is pleased with the court's decision.

"Louisiana's way of life has been severely impacted by the oil spill. No one wants safe deepwater drilling more than we do. We must protect the delicate balance between the environment and the economy, but shutting down some 33 deepwater rigs, directly impacting more than 35,000 jobs, isn't the way to go about it," stated Caldwell. "While we have presently succeeded in convincing the court that irreparable harm would have occurred with the moratorium in place, this is just the beginning of what may be protracted litigation possibly reaching the U.S. Supreme Court."

The federal government is expected to appeal the ruling to the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

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